

USSN 10/529,131
Amendment dated August 18, 2009

Docket No.: 61843USN(51035)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing an organic food supplement useful to inhibit *Ruminococcus albus*, *R. flavefaciens*, *Butyrivibrio fibriosolvens* ~~*fibrisolvens*~~, or *Methanobacterium ruminatum* using ~~*Humulus lupulus* (hop)~~ acids for livestock, comprising mixing ~~the~~ an aqueous alkali solution of hop acids for oral ingestion with a livestock feed, wherein the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids are mixed with the feed in an amount to inhibit undesirable bacteria selected from one or more of *Ruminococcus albus*, *R. flavefaciens*, *Butyrivibrio* ~~*fibrisolvens*~~ *fibrisolvens*, and *Methanobacterium ruminatum*, commonly found in digestive systems of livestock.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the hop acids ~~as well as their corresponding salts~~ from the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids are selected from at least one of the group consisting of alpha acids, beta acids, isoalpha acids, rho-isoalpha acids, tetrahydroisoalpha acids and hexahydroisoalpha acids.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha acids are selected from at least one of the group consisting of humulone, cohumulone, and adhumulone.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the beta acids are selected from at least one of the group consisting of lupulone, colupulone, and adlupulone.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the hop acids ~~[[is]]~~ from the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids mixed with the feed results in an amount of 2 parts per million (ppm) of hop acid present in fluid of the digestive systems of livestock.

6 - 10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the livestock is selected from the group consisting of cattle, poultry, horses, pigs, and zoo animals.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein an amount of hop acids from the aqueous alkali solution of hop acids mixed with the feed is capable of increasing a level of propionate in the digestive systems.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)